

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 06926 201831Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 IO-10 OPIC-03 /073 W

----- 096469

O R 201713Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5052

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6926

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PINS, MILI, PO

SUBJECT: POLITICAL MILITARY SITUATION AS OF 6:00 PM LOCAL

1. DEMONSTRATION AT BELEM: AS OF 4:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, EMBASSY
OBSERVER AT PRESIDENT'S BELEM PALACE ESTIMATED THAT THERE WERE
5,000 DEMONSTRATORS WITH NUMBER GROWING RAPIDLY. NO MILITARY
WERE OBSERVED AMONG DEMONSTRATORS AND NO SPECIAL SECURITY
PRECAUTIONS WERE IN EVIDENCE.

2. LISBON WEATHER IS COOL AND CLEAR.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 06926 201831Z

3. PARTY REACTION: POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE REACTED STRONGLY AND

PREDICTABLY TO GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO SUSPEND ACTIVITIES. SOCIALIST PARTY ISSUED STATEMENT NOV 20 GIVING TOTAL SUPPORT TO DECISION. POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL SUPPORTED SUSPENSION IN NOV 20 PRESS CONFERENCE (SEPTEL). COMMUNIST FRONT PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT CALLED SUSPENSION BLACKMAIL OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, AND ADHERED TO BELEM DEMONSTRATION. FAR LEFT UNITARY REVOLUTIONARY FRONT (FUR) ADHERED TO BELEM DEMONSTRATION, AND ISSUED STATEMENT THAT "HOUR HAD COME TO TOPPLE THE AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT".

3. PCP CALLS FOR GOVERNMENT RESIGNATION: COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) RELEASED STATEMENT AFTERNOON OF NOV 20 LABELLING COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DECISION TO SUSPEND ACTIVITIES "BLACKMAIL", AND CALLING ON GOVERNMENT TO RESIGN. COMMUNISTS ACCUSED GOVERNMENT OF ATTEMPTING TO FORCE CHANGES IN MILITARY COMMAND STRUCTURE WHICH WOULD ALLOW THEM TO REPRESS POPULAR MASSES. THEY CALLED ON SUPPORTERS TO PARTICIPATE IN ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATION AT BELEM.

4. OTHER REACTIONS: MINISTER OF INDUSTRY ENG. MARQUES DO CARMO (IND). RESIGNED FROM GOVERNMENT IN PROTEST OF "DECISION CONTRARY TO PROGRESS OF REVOLUTION". INDUSTRY MINISTRY'S THREE INDEPENDENT SECRETARIES OF STATE RESIGNED IN SUPPORT OF MINISTER. EMBASSY HAD EARLIER HEARD REPORTS THAT MARQUES DO CARMO WAS DUE TO BE FIRED FOR INCOMPETENCE. HE WAS A POLITICAL UNKNOWN BEFORE APPOINTMENT, AND HAD NO REAL POWER ON COUNCIL OF MINISTER. IN EMBASSY EXPERIENCE, MINISTRY AND ITS SECRETARIES OF STATE WERE NOT REALLY FUNCTIONING.

5. PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO MET FOR THREE HOURS WITH PRESIDENT MORNING OF NOV 20. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY EDUCATION MINISTER VITOR ALVES, COOPERATION MINISTER VITOR CRESPO, AND JUSTICE MINISTER DR. PINHEIRO FARINHA WHO WERE ELECTED BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO REPRESENT CABINET IN CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT. UPON LEAVING PRESIDENT'S OFFICE AT 1:30 P.M. LOCAL, PRIME MINISTER WAS INTERVIEWED BY PRESS. AZEVEDO SAID THAT HE HAD TOLD PRESIDENT THAT HE SPOKE FOR TWO DAYS WITH HIS MINISTERS AND THAT HE "IS TIRED OF PLAYING GAMES". HE SAID HE DID NOT COME TO GIVE A ULTIMATUM TO THE PRESIDENT AND THAT THE PRESIDENT "WILL HAVE TO PONDER HOW HE IS GOING TO RESOLVE THE CRISIS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LISBON 06926 201831Z

PROVOKED BY THE 6TH GOVERNMENT". ASKED WHAT GAMES HE REFERRED TO, AZEVEDO SAID: "I'VE BEEN SEQUESTERED TWO TIMES ALREADY. THAT IS ENOUGH. I DON'T LIKE TO BE KIDNAPPED. IT'S SOMETHING THAT BOTHER ME, MAN". HE ALSO SAID, "I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH GENERAL OTELO CARVALHO". PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF THE GOVERNMENT BUT SAID RECONSTRUCTION MUST BE "GLOBAL" NOT PIECEMEAL, HE WOULD NOT, HE SAID, "SACRIFICE PEOPLE" JUST BECAUSE THEY OCCUPIED HOT

POINTS SUCH AS MINISTRIES OF LABOR AND INFORMATION. HE SAID HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE BETWEEN THE POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE GOVERNMENT BUT IMPLIED THAT THIS MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE.

6. LAST MINUTE DEVELOPMENT AS OF 5:20 P.M. NOV 20:

DAO WAS INFORMED THAT TRUCK LOADS OF LISBON ARTILLERY REGIMENT (RALIS

)

TROOPS HAVE DEPARTED FROM UNIT AREA AND ARE MOVING TOWARDS

LISBON. ARTILLERY PIECES HAVE BEEN UNLIMBERED WITHIN UNIT.

IN TIMES OF CRISIS RALIS NORMALLY AIMS A FEW ARTILLERY PIECE

WEAPONS AT THE SUPER HIGHWAY LEADING TO TOWN FROM THE NORTH.

RALIS HAS IN PAST SENT TROOPS TO JOIN DEMONSTRATIONS.

CARLUCCI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONS, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL PARTIES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON06926
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750404-1145
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751125/aaaaavwf.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL MILITARY SITUATION AS OF 6:00 PM LOCAL
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PINS, MILI, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006